

R marks**I. Amendment****A. Priority**

The Office Action acknowledges that the instant application "filed January 3, 2001, is a Continuation of Application number 08/948,958, filed October 10, 1997, which claims benefit of 60/028,687, filed October 18, 1996" (P. 2). Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the specification in accordance with the Office Action's acknowledgement. Accordingly, Applicants have complied with the conditions for claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

B. No New Matter

The amendments are fully supported by disclosures from page 31, line 23 through page 34, line 19 in the specification. The new claims 50 -55 are also fully supported by disclosures from page 31, line 23 through page 34, line 19 and from page 38, line 21 through page 39, line 6 in the specification. Claim 56 is supported by line 10, page 32 of the specification. Accordingly, the amendments and new claims do not constitute new matter.

C. SEQ ID Numbers

Amendments regarding sequence ID numbers have been made. Accordingly, amino acid and nucleotide sequences in the specification and claims are properly identified by sequence ID numbers.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 2-4, 45, 46, 48, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have deleted claims 2-4 and 45-49 and therefore made the rejections moot. Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 8, 9, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 8, 9, and 13 and thereby made the rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

IV. Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 5-7, 10-12 and 14-16 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, the Office Action concedes that claim 5-7, 10-12 and 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In light of the Office Action's concession and to obtain an early issuance of a patent, Applicants have rewritten claim 5 into an independent claim by incorporating all the limitations of claim 1 and/or limitations of claims 6 or 7. By the same token, claim 10 is rewritten into an independent claim incorporating all the limitations of claim 8 and 9, and/or limitations of claims 11 or 12. Furthermore, claim 14 is rewritten into an independent claim incorporating all the limitations of claim 13, and/or limitations of claims 15 or 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.


The previously reply filed on April 9, 2003 and January 31, 2003 was made *bona fide*. Applicants believe that this correspondence is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2002. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this reply be entered.

Applicants believe that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If any additional issue needs to be addressed to expedite the prosecution of this application, please feel free to call the undersigned at (310) 788-3219.

Respectfully submitted,

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